

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045137

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

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SUBJECT: ANDERSON ARTICLE ON KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS/SHAN
STATE SITUATION

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE ENTITLED
"BATTLE FOR BURMA" APPEARING IN WASHINGTON POST, MARCH 6,
1974.

TEXT: TOUGH CHINESE COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS ARE ATTACKING
SETTLEMENTS IN REMOTE MOUNTAINS OF NEUTRALIST BURMA.

AS DESCRIBED BY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM THE BATTLE ZONE,
THE CHINESE ARE LED BY OFFICERS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PEKING.

THEIR THRUSTS INTO THE HILLS AND TOWNS OF NORTHERN BURMA
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PAGE 02 STATE 045137

THREATEN NOT ONLY BURMA BUT THAILAND, WHICH HAS CLOSE

MILITARY TIES WITH THE U.S. THERE ARE NO REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT AMERICAN SPECIAL FORCES IN THAILAND HAVE INTERVENED IN THE SPREADING CONFLICT.

THE TRANSCRIPT OF AN UNUSUAL MORSE RADIO TRANSMISSION FROM THE NORTHERN SHAN STATES OF BURMA TELLS OF POWERFUL COMMUNIST ACTION AGAINST SHAN OPIUM ARMIES AND TROOPS OF THE "KMT (TAIWAN)," A CHINESE KOUMINTONG FORCE IN BURMA.

RELAYED BY SHAN REBEL ARMY TRANSMITTERS, THE MESSAGE SAYS: "CPB (COMMUNIST PARTY, BURMA) ATTACKED KMT (TAIWAN) IN MONG SANG ON JAN. 21, 1974, 0500 HOURS... 15 KMT KILLED AND MANY WOUNDED." THE MESSAGE CLAIMS MANY WEAPONS WERE SEIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS.

A SECOND MESSAGE REPORTS: "CPB OCCUPIED MONG SANG... SHAN UNITED ARMY (A REBEL ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP) AND KMT (TAIWAN) RETREATED."

MORE CLASHES BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND THE SHAN ARMIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSIONS OF HPA HEING, CHIANG LAIN, OM TUNG, KAT LOI AND WAN HO NAR.

FROM OTHER INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE COMMUNISTS NOW THREATEN THE BURMESE DISTRICT CAPITAL OF KENG TUNG AND MANY CONTROL THE ONLY ROAD CONNECTING IT WITH THE REST OF BURMA.

ANOTHER MESSAGE CLAIMS THAT THE CHINESE GUERRILLAS PROBABLY HOLD "MOST OF THE AREA BETWEEN THE NAM PANG RIVER AND THE SALWEEN AREA"-A HUGE TRACT OF MISTY MOUNTAINS AND DEEP GORGES IN NORTHERN BURMA.

REP. LESTER WOLFF (D-N.Y.) CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SUBCOMMITTEE, HAS ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH THE SHAN ARMY TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE OPIUM TRADE. HE HAS LEARNED THAT THE CHINESE MILITARY MOVES MAY JEOPARDIZE HIS EFFORTS TO FREE TWO RUSSIAN DOCTORS, WHO WERE KIDNAPPED BY SHAN REBELS FROM A SOVIET MERCY MISSION TO BURMA.

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PAGE 03 STATE 045137

THE RUSSIANS HAVE SECRETLY ASKED WOLFF'S HELP IN GETTING THE DOCTORS BACK. TO WOLFF'S ASTONISHMENT, HE WAS CALLED FROM A SICK BED TO MEET WITH A SOVIET DIPLOMAT ON THE MATTER. WOLFF PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD.

THE CONGRESSMAN HAS USED HIS CONTACTS TO SEEK THE DOCTORS' RELIEF. THE INTERMEDIARIES, AS A GESTURE, TRIED TO

SMUGGLE TWO BOTTLES OF VODKA TO THEM VIA CARAVAN ROUTES INTO NORTHERN BURMA. THE VODKA, WOLFF HAS LEARNED, WAS INTERCEPTED. BUT HE HAS RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ONE OF THE DOCTORS HAS NOW BEEN SENT SOUTHWARD IN A JADE CARAVAN TO FREEDOM.

THE OTHER, AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, REMAINS IN SHAN REBEL HANDS WITHOUT HIS VODKA. HE IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE AS PART OF A BIZARRE SCHEME TO GET TALKS GOING ON SHAN INDEPENDENCE FROM BURMA. END OF TEXT. KISSINGER

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